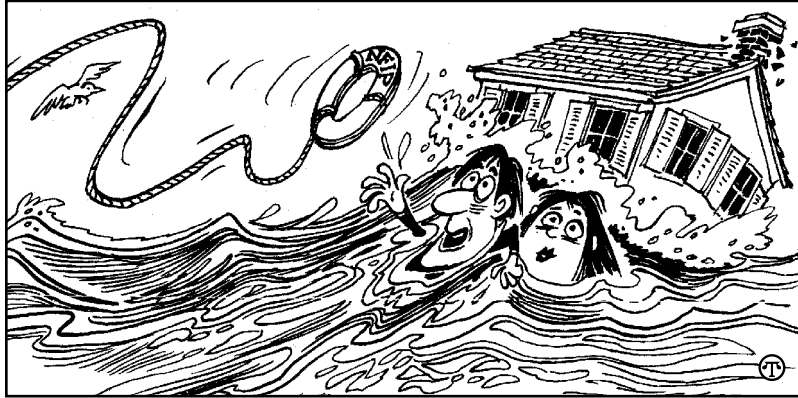


THEN *and* NOW!

Protecting People From Flood Damage



Back in 1968, Congress took action to protect people living in flood prone areas.

(NAPS)—News about floods is flooding the airwaves. Here's a look at how this disaster has impacted us through the years.

Then: Until the late 1960s most property owners were unable to get insurance coverage against flood damage. Private insurance firms, aware of the potential for catastrophic losses, were unwilling to assume the financial risk alone. This put the burden on taxpayers to provide costly disaster relief to a growing number of flood victims. In 1968, Congress addressed this issue by creating the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). This Federal program provides flood insurance at a reasonable cost in exchange for careful management of flood-prone areas by local communities. Flood insurance claims are paid with policyholder premiums—not appropriated tax dollars.

Now: Thirty years later, the NFIP insures more than 3.8 million policyholders in more than 18,700 communities across the U.S. It is administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Some facts you should know: people in high flood risk areas are



The NFIP, administered by FEMA, insures more than 3.8 million policyholders across the U.S.

four times more likely to have a flood than a fire during their 30-year mortgage; the average premium is \$300 per year for \$100,000 in coverage; coverage is effective 30 days from the date of application and premium payment; flood insurance is required by law in some cases; a flood insurance policy also reimburses you for certain actions you take to prevent flood damage. For more information, call the NFIP at 1-800-427-9662 or visit the FEMA Web site at www.fema.gov/nfip.